

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 9, lines 18-24, with the following amended paragraph:

Still referring to Fig. 3, a closure bar groove 32 is provided for stabilizing lower seal member 14 during operation of the slider 16. In a preferred embodiment, lower seal member 14 includes a closure bar groove 32. Closure bar groove 32 is ~~design~~ designed to receivingly accept a closure bar 48 of slider 16, shown, *e.g.*, in Fig. 6. Closure bar groove 32 may be of different lengths and shapes, as will be discussed below. Furthermore, closure bar groove 32 may include an end shape 34 that corresponds to an end shape 51 of the terminus 52 of the closure bar 48, as discussed below.

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 12, lines 11-23, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 4, a side elevation view of a slider 16 is depicted engaged in upper seal member 12 and lower seal member 14. The slider 16 includes an opening end 36 and a closing end 38. When pulled in either direction along the seal profile 17, the last end of the slider 16 to pass the profile renders the seal either opened or closed. More specifically, opening end 36 serves to separate the upper seal member 12 from the lower seal member 14. Therefore, as slider 16 is pulled along the seal 17, it will open the seal 17 if pulled such that closing end 38 leads opening end ~~[[38]]~~ 36. Conversely, closing end 38 of slider 16 confines and presses the upper seal member 12 into interlocking union with lower seal member 14. Therefore, as slider 16 is pulled along the seal 17, it will close the seal 17 if pulled such that opening end 36 leads closing end 38. In this mechanism of opening and closing, the seal is opened by force being applied by the lifting rib to the lifting wing to pull the upper seal member from the lower seal member. This mechanism is different from sealing devices where a force is applied directly to a mating or contacting surface that makes a seal.